

150 3627

Patent
Case No.: 56380US002

32692

Customer Number



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: YEUNG, HERBERT KAM-WAH

Application No.: 09/820398 Group Art Unit: 3627

Filed: March 29, 2001 Examiner: Andrew J. Rudy

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR THIRD PARTY MANAGEMENT
OF PRODUCT MANUFACTURE ORDERING BY A SUB-END-
USER BASED UPON APPROVED PRODUCTS OF END-USER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR § 1.8(a)]	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
<input type="checkbox"/>	transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 571-273-8300.
2-13-06	<i>Kim Elfstrom</i>
Date	Signed by: Kim Elfstrom

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449, citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

Copies of any cited foreign patents, foreign publications, non-patent literature documents, and any pending U.S. applications filed before June 30, 2003, are enclosed. Copies of any pending U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003 that can be accessed on the USPTO's IFW system are not enclosed as per USPTO Waiver dated September 21, 2004. Copies of any U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications are not enclosed.

Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Under 37 CFR § 1.704(d), I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A copy of the Search Report from a foreign counterpart application is enclosed.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

2-13-06
Date

Respectfully submitted,

By: Colene H. Blank
Colene H. Blank, Reg. No.: 41,056
Telephone No.: 651-737-2356

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Use as many sheets as necessary)

Page 1 of 1

U.S. Patent Documents

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date or Issue Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Doc. Number-(Kind Code if Known)			
	A1	US- 5978840	11-2-99	Nguyen	
	A2	US-			
	A3	US-			
	A4	US-			
	A5	US-			
	A6	US-			
	A7	US-			
	A8	US-			
	A9	US-			
	A10	US-			
	A11	US-			

Foreign Patent Documents

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation (Check if yes)
		Ctry. Code	Number-KindCode (If known)				
	B1	WO	9813796	02-04-98			
	B2						
	B3						
	B4						
	B5						
	B6						
	B7						

OTHER DOCUMENTS

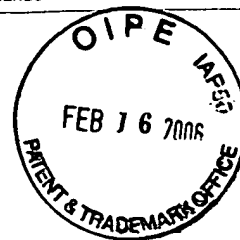
Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	Translation (Check if yes)
	C1		
	C2		
	C3		

*Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Information Disclosure Statement)



The examination is being carried out on the following application documents:

Description, Pages

1-22 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-20 received on 29.10.2003 with letter of 29.10.2003

Drawings, Sheets

1/10-10/10 as originally filed

- 1). The following documents are cited by the examiner (see the Guidelines, C-VI, 8.7). Copies of the documents are annexed to the communication:

D1 : WO9813796

D2 : US5978840

Art. 56 EPC

- 2). a) The present application addresses a problem of business nature, namely the problem of managing programs for the benefit of franchisors, parent companies, companies central offices with its corresponding franchisees, dealers or regional offices (p.1 lines 6-10), or the problem of managing more effectively any program that the end-user wishes to communicate and support with its sub-end-users (p 3 lines 5-6). In view of the description said program is a business program referring to the interrelationship of the parties involved in a business, i.e. parties involved in a franchise (see Figs 2-10). For the implementation of said business program the Internet or Intranet technology is suggested (see p. 4 l. 19-21, p. 6 l. 30 - p. 7 l. 2).
- b) Apart from the problem the general solution to be provided to this problem is

Best Available Copy